



Delaware CEDS – a program of the Delaware Economic Development Office
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SUSSEX REGION COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

November 15, 2005

7:00–9:00 p.m.

Seaford Public Library, Seaford

Committee Members Present: Jeffrey Fried (co-chair), Jerry Esposito (co-chair), Carol Everhart, John Culp, Tom Halverstadt, Gene Dvornick, Steve Masten, Carole Orr

CEDS Support Staff: Julia O'Hanlon, Bill McGowan (facilitator), Erik Hopkins, Lisa McIlvaine

DEDO Staff Present: Joy Oliver

Number of Public Participants Present: 5

Julia O'Hanlon, the University of Delaware Institute for Public Administration's CEDS Sussex Committee coordinator, through a summarization of previous committee work, initiated the evening's meeting and had committee members and public attendees introduce themselves. Following introductions, Ms. O'Hanlon reintroduced Sussex County's draft vision statement and goals and presented approved CEDS visions and action plans of other regions and states as examples for review.

Committee members and public attendees were then asked to prioritize the established Sussex Committee goals by level of importance. The group came to a consensus on the following prioritization of goals:

1. Provide incentives and the necessary infrastructure to live, visit, and work in Sussex County.
2. Protect the county's natural resources, character, and cultures that make it unique and appealing.
3. Maintain and attract a diverse economic base (tied with goal 3a below).
- 3a. Grow and nurture a well-trained workforce that supports higher-paying job opportunities, thus creating a higher standard of living.

Meeting facilitator Bill McGowan from the University of Delaware's Cooperative Extension explained the remaining tasks of the evening, which included breaking the committee and the public into four groups to clearly define the goals. Each group was asked to review one of the four prioritized goals and discuss the following:

- Who should be responsible?
- How can it be accomplished?
- When will it be accomplished?
- How will you know when it has been successfully accomplished?

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After deliberation among the groups, each one presented their work to the larger group. After each presentation, committee members and public attendees were encouraged to ask questions and make comments for clarification.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Jeff Fried (co-chair) expressed an interest in reviewing specific research and information related to each goal and its corresponding objectives and strategies. It was decided by the group that two additional meetings are likely necessary after the new year: (1) to review the research relating to the goals and objectives (2) to discuss Sussex County's economic-development project proposals. Julia O'Hanlon concluded the meeting by providing possible future meeting dates and congratulating the group on another successful evening's work.
